

Silent Keys.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of two silent keys.

The St George Amateur Radio Society have advised of the passing of Alex Theakston VK2DTX, on Monday 18th June in the St Joseph's Hospital at Auburn after a relatively short battle with cancer. Alex was 81 years old, and until nine or ten months ago was fitter than most teenagers.

Alex was a regular participant on 80 metres keeping a regular Sunday morning sked with Jackie VK2CJK, Don VK2KDR (SK), Donna and Anthony VK2HM.

Alex's family have requested a private family farewell service.

We have also been advised by the Hunter Radio Group, of the passing of former life member, William (Bill) Hall VK2XT. Bill passed away on the 20th June, aged 105 years, and had been a member of the Group, since the 1930's. A private funeral was held.

Please pause with us, while we remember Alex and Bill.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]
Alex Theakston VK2DTX, and
Bill Hall VK2XT.

Our thanks to Anthony VK2HM and Rodney VK2CN, for advising us here at VK2WI news.

[Play Evening ID1]

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

The next Foundation course and assessment weekend at VK2WI is next month, on the 14th and 15th of July. Enquires are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The next event at VK2WI Dural will be the Trash and Treasure, and Radio Experimenter's Group meeting, on Sunday the 29th of July.

ARNSW Antenna Day Review

As previously mentioned on VK2WI News, last Sunday the 17th was ARNSW antenna day, here at VK2WI Dural.

We had enlisted speakers covering various aspects of antennas and componentry; first Mal VK2YVA spoke on feed lines, then Paul VK2APA covered dipoles, Rob VK2DRB gave a presentation on the screwdriver antenna, and Ken VK2BBQ handed around his G5RV and explained the workings.

After lunch, John VK2ZOI expanded on his flower pot antenna, then to complete the day, Mark VK2XOF gave a detailed presentation on baluns and antenna analysis.

We completed the day with a raffle, the first prize being an antenna analyser.

It was an educational day and it appeared to be enjoyed by all who attended

73 from AI VK2OK

US Licence exams in Sydney

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting an assessment session next Sunday the 1st July, at 16 Miles Street in Bankstown Airport, starting at 8am.

The examinations will use the new Technician question pool. Candidates for higher level licences need to do all papers up to the level they desire, but all papers are included in the single affordable session fee.

More information, along with forms for questions and bookings, can be found on the new website: veexams.com.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm flux	71	71	71	74	77	82	82
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	4	7	20	6	7	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	2	11	4	2	0 estimated
T index	3	0	1	15	12	5	9

Solar flare activity was very low from the 15th to the 20th, and low on the 21st.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was at quiet except for the 18th, which ranged from quiet to active levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during local daylight times all week. However some enhancements were observed at local night; night-time frequencies were enhanced by 20% on the 15th, 15% on the 16th and 17th, 55% on the 18th, 50% on the 19th, and 20% on the 21st.

Now, the forecast for the 22nd to the 28th of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low, with a slight chance of M class flares in the coming week with some new solar region development.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to mostly be quiet to unsettled, with possible active periods from the 24th to the 25th due to coronal hole effects. Active conditions with possible minor storm periods expected on the 27th and 28th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 28th, but should remain near predicted monthly values otherwise.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished May, the figures were...

Minimum 67 Average 71 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 24th and the 31st.

Midway through June, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum 67 Average 74 Maximum 82
With peak dates between the 1st to the 2nd; and the 20th to the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for July;

Minimum 68 Average 71 Maximum 74
With peak dates between the 9th and the 21st.

Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.

[using daily data updates from :
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

SENEGAL, 6W. Dominic, ON4AZP will be active as 6W/ON4AZP from June 25 to July 5. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Daniel, SM0UDH will be active as 8Q7DT until July 9. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using SSB, JT9, JT65 and FT8.

TAIWAN; Bodo, DF8DX will be active as BW/DF8DX until June 30. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW.

BOLIVIA, CP. Toni, EA5RM is active as CP1XRM until July 10 while working with Solidaridad Medica and Radio Amateurs Without Frontiers NGO. Activity is in his spare time on 60 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

FRANCE; Franck, F4DTO and Patrick, F4GFE are active as TM220BP until December 15 to commemorate Napoleon's Battle of the Pyramids. Activity is on various dates and times on the HF bands.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Haru, JA1XGI is active as H44XG from Guadalcanal, IOTA OC-047, until June 27. Activity is on 40, 30, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW and FT8. In addition, Bernhard, DL2GAC is active as H44MS until July 12.

BAKER AND HOWLAND ISLANDS, KH1. A large group of operators will be active as KH1/KH7Z from Baker Island, IOTA OC-089, from June 27 to July 6. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

NETHERLANDS; Marcel, PD5MVH will be active with special call sign PD18VOR until July 1 for the Volvo Ocean Race.

PALAU, T8. Tatsuko, JJ1BDT is active as T88YL from Koror, IOTA OC-009, until June 27. Activity is holiday style on 40, 17 and 15 metres using SSB.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON is active as V47JA from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until July 20. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming IARU HF Championship.

AUSTRALIA; Special call VI70MI is active from mainland Australia, IOTA OC-001, until August 31 to draw attention to 70 years of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition's activities on Macquarie Island. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL Field Day, His Majesty King of Spain SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, UFT QRP Contest and the Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest are all scheduled for this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for June 27.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

The 30th annual Navshield bush navigation contest, was on this weekend concluding today. The contest was in Yengo National Park, between Bucketty and Putty. A WICEN forward command vehicle was deployed to the site.

At last weekend's "Glow Worm Tunnel" event, WICEN provided assistance in response to a female competitor suffering serious injuries due to a tree branch falling in high winds. This included providing a communications link between the on-site medical crew and NSW Ambulance. The person was evacuated by helicopter to a major hospital, and is recovering well.

The VH-MDX "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue EXercise is on September 14th to 16th.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au includes membership information, a web contact form, as well as other contact details and useful links. Logging in gives members access to further coming events, and various manuals. Facebook users will find a new official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers holds a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Saturday, July 21 is the BMSC Narooma Rally, and the Batemans Bay Rally is on August 11. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. For details on future events, visit the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
on behalf of the WICEN NSW State Management Committee.*

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club will be the July monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of July, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when sufficient candidates have registered.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net takes place from 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for all these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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For more information about the Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The May 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday the 13th of July, in the Belmore function room at Adamstown bowling club , 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, Newcastle. The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

After General Business, the lecture for the evening will be presented by Rob, VK2ZWZ, on Portable HF Antennas.

There is parking available at the side of the Bowling Club.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a broadcast every Monday evening starting at 7:30pm on the Group Repeaters, 146.9MHz in the 2 metre band, and 438.025 MHZ in the 70 cm band. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Advised by Rodney VK2CN
Secretary for the Hunter Radio Group.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering is on Wednesday evening, the 4th of July.

Instead of a normal presentation with one person standing up the front, lots of people will stand up and present a "show and tell". This is your opportunity to give a presentation on a project on which they have been working. Explain your reason for selecting the project. Share your design ideas or construction techniques you used to bring your project to life.

Bring along your project or just talk about your experience. A digital projector will be available should you wish to use a power point style presentation aid.

After the gathering, there will be the usual refreshments. All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville. The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".
[<http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted>]

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is on Tuesday the 26th of June. This will be the monthly general meeting, and its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

On Saturday 22nd of September there will be centenary celebrations of the first message from Billy Hughes, sent via Ernest Fisk. At 1pm, at the monument, 'The Ku-ring-gai Male Choir' will sing the Welsh and Australian anthems and at 1.15pm the original Morse code message will be heard by all present, with a Radio Operator deciphering the message, which will be read to the gathering, including Fisk family members, politicians, councillors, residents, wireless enthusiasts and historians.

The assembly will then move to St Andrew's church hall across Cleveland Street where further celebrations will take place. There will be many displays including old and new wireless equipment, with radio stations operated by the Hornsby and District Amateur Radio Club, using the special callsign VK100MARCONI. Also available will be official stamps to commemorate the day, as well as refreshments. The displays will be open from 11am to 4pm in the church hall, and all are welcome.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Its on 147.25MHz, No tone is required, but a 91.5Hz tone is sent. The Wednesday evening net is on 3608.5kHz, also from 8pm. Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is at: www.hadarc.org.au.

The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Summary of coming events;

June

HADARC Monthly general meeting on the 26th

July

US Amateur Licence exams at Bankstown Airport, on the 1st

St George ARS gathering on the 4th

MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 7th

ORARC Monthly general meeting on the 7th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 13th

Waverley ARS Auction on the 14th

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 14th and 15th

Trans-Tasman Low-Band Contest on the 21st

Canberra Region ARC Foundation course and exams at Red Hill, 21st and 22nd

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 29th

August

St George ARS gathering on the 1st

Remembrance Day Contest on the 11th and 12th

International Lighthouse & lightship weekend, 18th and 19th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29th